In the Specification:

Page 4 Lines 4 to 18

Figure 5 is a flow diagram of the steps carried out by an agent when evaluating a proposal;

Figure [[5]] 6 is a schematic diagram of calls for proposal from a buyer agent to seller agents;

Figure [[6]] 7 is a schematic diagram of unmoderated reverse auction between agents for buyers and sellers;

Figure [[7]] 8 is a schematic diagram of moderated reverse auction, between buyers' and sellers' agents and an intermediary;

Figure [[8]] 9 is a schematic diagram showing the architecture of a software agent for flexible negotiation;

Figure [[9]] 10 is a collection of four graphs illustrating the iterative negotiation process, based on different commercial issues, leading to a contract for purchase of a vehicle by a buyer from a seller;

Figure [[10]] 11 is a diagram of a FIPA compliant agent platform;

Figure [[11]] 12 is a diagram of an abstract agent shell, on the left-hand side, and an example of an agent, on the right-hand side, completed around that shell; and

Figure [[12]] 13 represents a FIPA standard iterated contract net protocol.

Page 22 Lines 2-24

The evaluation reasoner becomes active when an agent receives a proposal or counter-proposal from another agent. Upon receipt of such a message, the agent computes the utility it attains for the proposal. It uses an additive scoring function over each slot in the SLA where each slot is assigned a weight representing the relative

of the new service offered and given a identifier for the agent offering the service, such that it can be contacted to initiate the Reverse Auction process.

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Page 50 Line 25 to Page 51 Line 12

The Interaction Use Cases discussed below represent the groups of agents that will interact with each other. The communications layer of the agent platform supports the exchange of messages between the agents in the forms illustrated in the Use Cases. The means to construct and understand the messages exchanged is a feature provided by a component in the agent "shell" as illustrated in Figure [[11]]12. FIPA defines a number of standard interaction protocols that include a set of protocols for sequencing performatives for negotiation and auction domains. These standard protocols provide a co-ordination framework to help structure the interaction between the agents. These standard protocols help enable agents to determine what messages they are expected and also includes guidance on the types of messages to exchange when errors occur. For example, a negotiation iteration protocol known as Iterated-Contract-Net is illustrated in Figure [[12]]13 in AUML (Agent Unified Modelling Language). The terms used to label the arrows connecting the Initiator and Participant refer to the ACL performative (or message type in effect).

Page 54 Line 28

Illustrated in Figure [[5]] 6

Page 54 Line 33

Illustrated in Figure [[6]] 7

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Illustrated in Figure [[7]] 8

Page 57 Lines 13 to Page 58 Line 2